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 Godsey/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Natasha  
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 Edmond/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Michael  
 Watson/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Hanh  
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 North/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Jennifer  
 Curtis/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=MichelleV  
 Davis/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Keith Cohon/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[];  
 N=Cindi Godsey/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Natasha  
 Greaves/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Jean  
 Zodrow/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lorraine  
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 Davis/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Keith Cohon/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[];  
 N=Natasha Greaves/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Jean  
 Zodrow/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Lorraine  
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 N=MichelleV Davis/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Keith  
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**From:** CN=Dianne Soderlund/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US  
**Sent:** Mon 2/13/2006 7:02:28 PM  
**Subject:** Update on Northern Dynasty Pebble Project  
[60116 NDN comment response matrix to agencies \(read only\).xls](#)

This email serves two purposes: to provide an update on the Pebble project to the EPA team and to request review of recently received Pebble 2004/2005 baseline data documents and the response to previous EPA comments that was submitted earlier this month.

First, an update on the project. Northern Dynasty Mines (NDM) - Pebble Project - is continuing drilling operations to define the ore concentration and eastern boundary of the deposit. The magnitude of the project has grown based on the drilling done to date, and the most recent thinking is that some hard rock underground mining may occur from the bottom of the pit if the deposits are proven. But please bear in mind this is all speculative at this point. For now, NDM is projecting applications will be submitted in early 2007, but an operating partner has not yet been identified. As you may recall, NDM has stated that applications will not be submitted until a partner has been found and had a chance to review the mine development concepts and incorporated their preferences for mine development. In the interim, NDM is moving forward on a baseline feasibility study for the mine site and transportation routes. Additionally, NDM is still working with water balance equations and it is still uncertain whether they will be applying for an NPDES permit. (although the general consensus is that it would be amazing if they did not need one given the projected size of this operation) This is the best information I can provide.

As you may know, there continues to be a large level of interest on this mine project from the media, environmental groups, the public, the tribes and now the State Legislature. There is a resolution being discussed in the Legislature today requesting the DNR Commissioner complete a management plan for the Pebble area. There have also been routine articles in the Anchorage and Homer papers about the Pebble project and the views on the project from surrounding native communities (some for, some against but all concerned with potential environmental impacts and threats to a subsistence way of life), residents and environmental groups. There have also been several news releases from NDM in the last couple months announcing discovery of better grade ore and a larger mineral reserve than originally thought. Cindi and I also attended the Baseline Studies 2005 Team meeting in Anchorage November 15-17 and I have given several presentations on potential EPA involvement and permitting for the project. If anyone wants to see hard copies of the NDM presentation (primarily power point) I can get these to you.

So this is what is coming down the pike:

February 13 and 16, 2006

Bristol Bay Regional Groups and Community Leaders meetings in Anchorage. Cindi Godsey and I will be attending these.

EPA now has the remainder of the 2004 Pebble progress reports and 2005 Study Plan and Field Sampling Plans. Patti McGrath has copies in Seattle and Cindi and I have copies in Anchorage. (both hard copies and CD's so you can choose your work format) I am requesting that each team member review their discipline, along with the response to comments previously submitted (if you were one of the lucky few who had date to review previously). The response to comments is attached below along with the NDM instructions for use. Please provide your comments to me by March 8 (or sooner) or let me know if this will not work for you. Please see either Patty or I for copies of the documents, and email or call if you have any questions.

For planning purposes, once we complete the document reviews I do not anticipate a significant amount

of work for team members for the remainder of 2006, excluding Cindi, our tribal representatives and myself. There may be some field work for 404 permitting with the COE, but other than that I do not anticipate any travel for team members to Iliamna.

Thanks for your continuing efforts on this project. At this point, I am projecting we are in it for the long haul and I will attempt to keep you posted whenever there is breaking news.

You will note the file is saved as "Read Only." Thus, the attached file itself can be opened only in Read Only mode, but it can be saved under a new file name that will allow you to make changes. This Excel spreadsheet allows for maximum flexibility in sorting and finding topics of interest. For example, you can sort by discipline (fish, water chemistry), or by agency (to see all of its comments in one location).

The workbook has four spreadsheets, one each for Study Plans, Progress Reports, and Field Sampling Plans, and a fourth showing the agency acronyms used.

In a few instances, the NDM response exceeds the length allowed by Excel for printing, and a hard copy will show text ending in mid-sentence. The full text, however, can be seen electronically on your screen.

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